(e) if not, whether Government is willing to give financial support to the project under viability gap funding; and

(f) if so, what is the status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A proposal from Gujarat Infrastructure Development Board for viability gap funding for Ro-Ro ferry service in Gujarat was received in August, 2006.

(d) to (f) Government of Gujarat has requested for grant of Rs. 50 crores under the viability gap funding scheme. The ferry terminals were to be built by a private party that will also operate the ferry service on a monopoly basis. The proposal was considered by the Empowered Institution and it was pointed out that Government of India grant funds cannot be utilized to support monopoly infrastructure services. The Project Authority was requested to revise the proposal. Revised proposal has not been submitted by the State Government.

Safety of Banks' lockers

4190. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that banks in the country are not providing adequate safety and security to the customer's valuables kept in their lockers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any survey has been undertaken on bank's lockers security;

(d) if so, the discrepancies found; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to direct banks to provide adequate safety and security to customer's valuables kept in their lockers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has informed that certain instances of thefts/attempted thefts have been reported by the banks during the last two years which are as under:

Name of the bank and branch	Details
Allahabad Bank, Garia Distt. Kolkata, West Bengal.	One locker was dented. There was nothing in the locker.
State Bank of India, New Ballygunj, West Bengal.	One locker cabinet was broken and contents stolen.
Canara Bank, Kamalanagar, Agra branch.	Attempt was made to break open the padlock of one locker. The locker was found empty. There was no claim from the locker holder.

(c) to (e) The RBI has not undertaken any survey regarding security of banks lockers. However, Reserve Bank of India (RBI), *vide* their circular dated April 17, 2007, have issued guidelines to banks on Safe Deposit Lockers/Safe Custody Articles, stipulating that the banks

should exercise due care and necessary precaution for the protection of the lockers provided to the customer and banks should review the systems in force for operation of safe deposits vaults/locker at their branches on an on-going basis and take necessary steps. The security procedure should be well documented and the concerned staff should be properly trained in the procedure. It has also been laid down that the internal auditors should ensure that the procedures are strictly adhered to.

Motor Vehicle Insurance claim

4191. SHRI N. R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of motor vehicle insurance claims settled during the last three years; company-wise and zone-wise;

(b) whether some officers have been found guilty of neglect of duty under the provision of conduct discipline and appeal rules;

(c) if so, the details thereof, company-wise and zone-wise;

(d) the number of officials suspended and the number of officials found guilty and still in service on the same post; and

(e) further action taken in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

World Banks' prediction for food shortage

4192. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether President of World Bank at the meetings of World Bank/International Monitoring Fund held in Washington in April this year expressed concern that has rolled economies around the world and led to high food and energy prices with the result that in many developing countries the poor spent 75 per cent of their income on food;

(b) whether the agencies like the World Bank are predicting that international food shortage will last for three to four years; and

(c) if so, what steps Government has so far taken to meet its needs of food items at reasonable prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The World Bank President at the Meetings of World Bank/International Monetary Fund (IMF) held recently in Washington expressed concern on the rising food prices and stated that the poor in the developing world spend as much as 75 per cent of their income on food. The World Bank has forcasted that the world foodgrain prices will remain high in the next three to four years. The Development Committee of the World Bank Group and IMF endorsed the "New Deal on Global Food Policy" to meet the food price crisis.

(c) Government of India has taken a number of steps to meet its needs of food items at reasonable prices including augmenting availability of wheat through public sector agencies,